

Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP (HB 2958)

The Basics

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) is when people at risk of HIV take daily medicine to help prevent getting HIV. Studies have shown that PrEP reduces the risk of getting HIV from sex by about 99% when taken consistently.

PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) means taking antiretroviral medicines to prevent becoming infected after potentially being exposed to HIV.



The Need

Both PrEP and PEP are powerful tools in the effort to end the HIV epidemic. However, PrEP and PEP are not nearly as accessible as they need to be for the people who need these tools most, such as gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, and Black and Latinx people. That's in part because in Oregon, PrEP and PEP are currently only prescribed by medical providers, who are embedded in a healthcare system that is hard to understand, expensive, and unwelcoming for many Oregonians.

The Bill

This legislation would make PrEP and PEP much more accessible, by ensuring that licensed pharmacists can prescribe these medications and Oregonians can easily access them. Pharmacists already have the legal authority to provide any service approved by the Board of Pharmacy, which PrEP and PEP prescriptions have been. This bill would resolve remaining issues with pharmacist-prescribed PrEP and PEP by:

- Clarifying that pharmacists have the legal authority to conduct an HIV test, order lab tests, and interpret test results, all of which is required in order to safely prescribe PrEP
- Incentivize pharmacists to provide PrEP and PEP screening & counseling by requiring health plans to fairly reimburse them for these services
- Reduce barriers to PrEP and PEP by mandating that health plans cover these regimens without prior authorization and regardless of whether the prescribing pharmacist is in-network



As highly trained professionals, pharmacists are more than capable of conducting screening and counseling, and they are well positioned to deliver critical health services to hard-to-reach populations. This bill leverages pharmacists' accessibility to help end HIV transmissions and advance health equity.

Supporters

The chief sponsors of the Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP bill are Rep. Rob Nosse, Rep. Dacia Grayber, and Sen. Kate Lieber. (cont.)

For more information, contact Jonathan Frochtzwaig at CAP: jfrochtzwaig@capnw.org

The following community organizations have endorsed Pharmacist-Prescribed PrEP & PEP:



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon



SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY YOUTH RESOURCE CENTER
NEW AVENUES
for Youth



Pride
Foundation

 THE FENWAY INSTITUTE

